

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS ROME 12998

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, IT, VT

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO ITALY OF MAURICE FERRE, MAYOR OF MIAMI

REF: STATE 197255; ROME 12672

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY POPE'S AUDIENCE OFFICER THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, NO PRIVATE AUDIENCE COULD BE GRANTED TO GROUP IN VIEW OF POPE'S ACTIVITIES RELATING TO FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION (FERRAGOSTO). HE SAID THAT HE HAD TRIED EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO SEE IF HE COULD ACCOMMODATE GROUP'S REQUEST, AND REGRETTED IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

2. IN TRYING TO BE HELPFUL TO GROUP, WE WISH TO SUGGEST FOR GROUP'S CONSIDERATION VISIT TO CASTEL GANDOLFO FOR THE SUNDAY NOON BLESSING BY THE POPE. SINCE GROUP ALREADY HAS CONTRACTED LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, TRIP TO CASTEL GANDOLFO COULD BE EASILY ARRANGED. PLEASE ADVISE IF GROUP WISHES TO MAKE TRIP. IF ANSWER POSITIVE, WE WOULD INFORM VATICAN. IN SOME CASES, POPE DECIDES TO CALL SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PRESENCE OF GROUPS AND THIS MAY BE POSSIBLE. WE ESTIMATE TIME FOR VISIT TO CASTEL GANDOLFO AND RETURN TO ROME TO BE MORE THAN THREE HOURS.VOLPE

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